

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to a non-final Office action (Paper No. 20) mailed 6 August 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 16-28 and 31-32 will be pending in this application. Applicant has canceled claims 29 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter by this amendment and has amended claims 16 through 20 and 25 by this amendment

In Paper No. 20, the Examiner has examined and deemed allowed or allowable claims 1, 2, 4-8, 21-24 and 30-32.

In Paper No. 20, the Examiner has rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Miller, USP 6,038,320. In Paper No. 20, the Examiner has also rejected claims 19, 20 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being obvious over Miller '320 in view of Crisan, USP 6,292,890. Applicant has amended these claims making the rejections moot.

In particular, regarding independent claim 25, Applicant has amended claim 25 by this amendment to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claim 30 and intervening claim 29 to place claim 25 and all its dependent claims in instant condition for allowance.

Regarding independent claim 16, Applicant has amended claim 16 by this amendment to better differentiate from Miller '320 and to emphasize features in Applicant's invention that are not present in the applied prior art.

Miller '320 discusses a device that attaches to the USB port that can be used in the computer boot process. Two checks are made, one is the security key code comparison (step 150 of FIG. 6) and the other is the a password check at step 190.

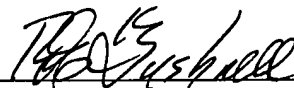
The security key code in Miller '320 is used to determine if the correct security key 40 is being used. The security key code is more like a checking of serial numbers as opposed to a checking of security information like a password. One security key code in Miller '320 is stored in BIOS in the computer. The other is in the key. After this check is completed satisfactorily, then a password check is done. One password in Miller '320 is on the key and the other is typed in by the user.

Thus, Miller '320 requires a user to type in a password. This is not required or allowed in Applicant's invention. Thus, Applicant has amended claim 16 to claim that the method is absent entry of information by a user.

No fees are incurred by the filing of this amendment.

In view of the above, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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